(b) The Government has taken a number of steps for revival of sick industrial units, which include guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India to banks, setting up of Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction etc.

Capital subsidy to leather industry

2296. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to give capital subsidy to leather industry for modernization of tanneries and down-stream leather units;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is proposed to invlolve some technical institutes to assess the quantum of subsidy for each unit on a case to case basis;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) details of subsidy that is proposed to be given to leather units located in Orissa State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has launched a comprehensive scheme "Integrated Development of Leather Sector (IDLS)" with an outlay of Rs. 290 crore for modernization and technology up-gradation in all the segments of the leather industry during the Tenth Plan Period. Under this scheme financial assistance to the extent of 30% of cost of plant and machinery for Small Scale Industries (SSI) and 20 % of cost of plant and machinery for other units (non-SSI units) subject to a ceiling of Rs. 50 lakh is provided to individual units. The scheme has become operational *w.e.f.* November 3, 2005.

(c) and (d) Two technical institutes are involved in the implementation of the scheme by providing technical appraisal of the modernization proposals received for seeking Government of India subsidy, namely, Central Leather Research Institute (CLR), Chennai in Tamil Nadu for tannery and Footwear Design and Development Institute (FDDI), Noida in Uttar Pradesh for leather goods and garments, saddlery, leather footwear and footwear component.

released to the Government of Punjab under the State Component of the ASIDE Scheme during the last three years are as follows:

Sl.No.	Year	Amount Released (in Rs. Lakh)
1.	2002-03	900.00
2.	2003-04	1,000.00
3.	2004-05	968.00

Apart from the above, a sum of Rs. 4 crore has also been released to Punjab Small Industry and Export Corporation (PSIEC) in 2005 from the Central component of ASIDE for the construction of second module Common Effluent Treatment Plant at the Leather Complex in Jalandhar.

Import Duty on Soda Ash

2305. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present rate of Import Duty on soda ash;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government of Gujarat has requested against further reduction of Import Duty rates to protect the domestic soda ash industry against import; and

(c) if so, Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Soda ash at present attracts customs duty at the rate of 15% *ad valorem*.

(b) and (c) Department of revenue has received a request from Government of Gujarat for maintaining the present rate of import duty. This request would be examined at the time of formulation of the budget for 2006-07.

Import of Indian Poultry products by Japan

2306. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Japan has allowed import of Indian poultry products;